

INDUCED TERMINATIONS OF PREGNANCY: State Summary

INDUCED TERMINATIONS OF PREGNANCY

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Induced Termination of Pregnancy Surveillance

An *induced termination (abortion)* is the intentional interruption of a pregnancy with the objective of preventing a live birth. Abortion surveillance provides information useful in identifying population groups experiencing unintended pregnancies. Such information is valuable in targeting pregnancy prevention programs.

Source of Data: Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy

Induced termination information presented in this report is gathered from data recorded on *Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy* certificates for abortions that occurred in Louisiana in the 1997 calendar year. All original Induced Termination certificates flow to the Vital Records Registry in New Orleans. Data are recorded on the certificates by the attending physician. Louisiana law requires that each induced termination of pregnancy that occurs in the state be reported to the Vital Records Registry by the attending physician within 15 days of the pregnancy termination.

Although some states notify Louisiana of out-of-state pregnancy terminations obtained by Louisiana residents, Louisiana cannot reciprocate. A federal court decision prohibits the collection of residency information on women who terminate pregnancies within the state. Hence, no accurate counts of the number of terminations among Louisiana residents are available. Counts used in this chapter represent terminations that occurred in Louisiana and include out-of-state residents who obtained induced terminations in Louisiana.

INDUCED TERMINATION COUNTS

- There were 11,739 induced terminations of pregnancy reported in Louisiana in 1997. Following a decline in the late 1980s, the number of induced terminations reported in the state has remained stable throughout the 1990s (Figure A1, Table A1).
- Historically, women aged 20-24 have reported the highest number of abortions. In 1997, women in this age group accounted for approximately one-third (34.8%) of all abortions (Table A1).
- The largest decline in the annual number of reported abortions in the 1990s has been in women under 20 years of age (Table A1, Figure A1).

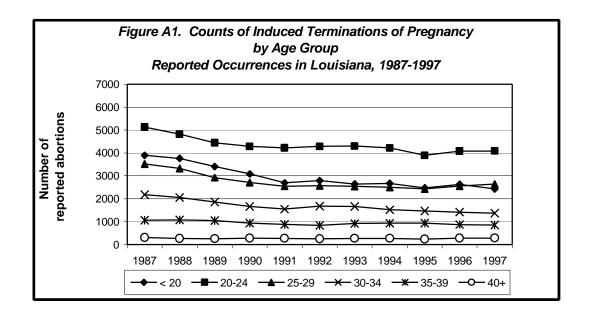


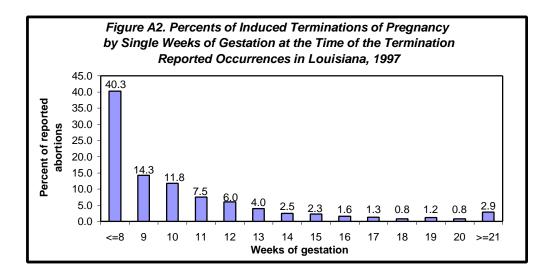
	Table A1. Counts of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Age Group Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 1987-1997													
		Kep	Age in Years											
Year	Total	Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older	Unknown				
1987	16246	181	3715	5133	3518	2184	1070	297	12	136				
1988	15367	187	3577	4815	3325	2056	1075	247	19	66				
1989	14210	171	3236	4446	2929	1864	1048	245	10	261				
1990	13020	150	2934	4287	2716	1670	938	267	14	44				
1991	12190	128	2562	4221	2549	1543	878	260	13	36				
1992	12468	191	2597	4288	2571	1683	838	237	15	48				
1993	12373	157	2487	4300	2543	1667	917	259	15	28				
1994	12154	169	2500	4215	2505	1517	929	257	17	45				
1995	11491	141	2333	3895	2428	1468	936	226	11	53				
1996	11884	143	2489	4083	2553	1417	876	262	16	45				
1997	11739	147	2285	4087	2650	1375	849	265	22	59				

In 92.5% of reported abortions, no reason for seeking the procedure was given (Table A2).

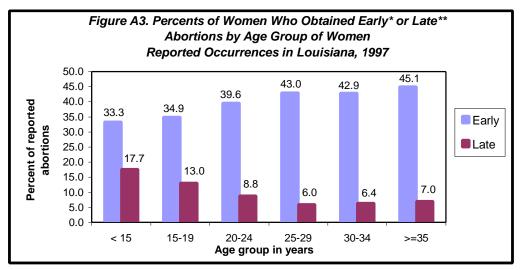
Table A2. Counts of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Reason for Abortion and Age Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 1997													
			Age										
Reason for Abortion	Total	Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older	UnK.			
All reasons	11739	147	2285	4087	2650	1375	849	265	22	59			
Mental health	415	5	70	121	95	60	43	19	1	1			
Physical health	17	1	-	5	4	6	2	-	-	-			
Risk of fetal deformity	21	-	2	4	5	3	4	3	-	-			
Rape or incest	4	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1			
Other	421	5	99	150	89	36	30	6	1	5			
Unknown	10861	137	2113	3806	2456	1270	770	237	20	52			

An *early abortion* is one that is performed at or before 8 weeks gestation. A *late abortion* is one that is performed at or after 16 weeks gestation.

• There were 4,727 early abortions reported in Louisiana, 40.3% of the total reported. The 1,018 reported late abortions comprised 8.7% of the total reported. Gestational age was not recorded for 312 (2.7%) reported abortions (Figure A2, Table A3).



 Younger women (under age 20 years) were more likely to obtain late abortions than older women were (Figure A3, Table A4).



^{*}Early abortion occurs at or before 8 weeks of gestation

The suction procedure was used in 86.9% of reported abortions in Louisiana (Table A3).

Table A3. Counts of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Weeks of Gestation and Type of Procedure Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 1997													
Weeks of		Curet	Curettage		rauterine stillation			Dilation and					
Gestation	Total	Suction	Sharp	Saline	Saline Prostaglandin		Hysterectomy	Evacuation	Other	Unknown			
ALL	11739	10209	9	-	1	1	-	229	15	1275			
8 and under	4727	4189	5	-	_	_	_	2	_	531			
9	1676	1510	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	165			
10	1390	1205	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	183			
11	886	767	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	117			
12	710	632	1	-	1	-	-	6	-	70			
13	464	420	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44			
14	289	226	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	55			
15	267	226	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	39			
16	193	143	-	-	-	1	-	21	1	27			
17	154	97	-	-	-	-	-	38	1	18			
18	95	71	-	-	-	-	-	21	1	2			
19	141	112	1	-	-	-	-	23	3	2			
20	96	69	-	-	-	-	-	21	5	1			
21 and over	339	249	1	-	-	-	-	81	3	5			
Unknown	312	293	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	16			

^{**}Late abortion occurs at or after 16 weeks of gestation

	Table A4. Counts of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Weeks of Gestation, Age, Race, and Marital Status															
				Report		currer	ices i									
		Age									Marital Satus					
Weeks of	D*	T- 1-1	Under	15-	20-	25-	30-	35-	40-	45 &	11-4-		I las assas a mailas al	111		
gestation	Race*	Total	15	19	24	29	34	39	44	Older	Unk.	Married	Unmarried	Unknown		
ALL	ALL	1173 9	147	2285	4087	2650	1375	849	265	22	59	1085	5483	5171		
	W	5319	52	1103	1707	1179	636	466	140	10	26	648	2705	1966		
	NW	6161	93	1139	2298	1405	699	365	121	11	30	399	2652	3110		
	UNK	259	2	43	82	66	40	18	4	1	3	38	126	95		
8 AND UNDER		4727	49	798	1619	1140		376	122	14	19		2037	2248		
	W	2299	18	435	712	546	283	215	72	8	10		1128	912		
	NW UNK	2322 106	30 1	345 18	875 32	564 30	293 14	152 9	48 2	6	9	164 19	863 46	1295 41		
	UNK	100	'	10	32	30	14	9		_	-	19	40	41		
9	ALL	1676	15	300	578	392	210	132	39	-	10	161	874	641		
	W	771	8	152	246	172	103	68	16	-	6	97	433	241		
	NW	866	7	143	318	211	101	60	22	-	4	59	423	384		
	UNK	39	-	5	14	9	6	4	1	-	-	5	18	16		
10	ALL	1390	11	242	496	321	176	108	24	3	9	137	674	579		
	W	597	2	111	200	137	65	62	14	2	4	85	302	210		
	NW	764	9	128	285	176	106	44	10	1	5	48	358	358		
	UNK	29	-	3	11	8	5	2	-	-	-	4	14	11		
11	ALL	886	9	181	309	206	108	51	17	-	5	73	400	413		
	W	353	4	84	116	75	47	17	8	-	2		167	142		
	NW UNK	515 18	5	93 4	189 4	124 7	58 3	34	9	-	3	28	220 13	267 4		
	UNK	10	-	4	4	,	3	-	-	_	-	'	13	4		
12	ALL	710	9	147	262	147	80	45	15	1	4	59	333	318		
	W	298	3	67	102	50		30			1	24	160			
	NW UNK	402 10	6	78 2	157	94	42 1	15	7	1	2	32	169	201		
	UNK	10	-	2	3	3	I	-	-	-	1	3	4	3		
13	ALL	464	15	110	162	102	39	25	11	-	-	31	169	264		
	W	201	4	52	61	46	18	14	6	-	-	22	84	95		
	NW	257	11	58	98	55	19	11	5	-	-	8	83	166		
	UNK	6	-	-	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	3		
14	ALL	289	9	74	105	48	34	12	4	1	2	26	130	133		
	W	117	4	32	36	18	19	7	-	-	1		55	45		
	NW	166	5	41	68	28	14	4	4	1	1	8	72	86		
	UNK	6	-	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	-		3	2		

Table A4. Counts of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Weeks of Gestation, Age, Race, and Marital Status Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 1997

Reported Occurrences in Louisiana,1997																
					-		1ge			,		Marital Satus				
Weeks of			Under	15-	20-	25-	30-	35-	40-	45 &						
gestation	Race*	Total	15	19	24	29	34	39	44	Older	Unk.	Married	Unmarried	Unknown		
45	A 1 1	007	0	70	00	0.5	47	45	_			47	447	400		
	ALL W	267 116	3	76 32	86 37	65 31	17 6	15 9	5 1		-	17 10	117 60	133 46		
	NW	142	3	41	47	32	9	6	4		_	5		85		
	UNK	9	-	3	2	2	2	-	-	_	-	2	5	2		
						_	_					_				
16	ALL	193	5	57	69	29	18	14	1	-	-	14	107	72		
	W	73	3	19	25	11	7	8	-	-	-	9		17		
	NW	110	1	36	42	16	8	6	1	-	-	5	53	52		
	UNK	10	1	2	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	7	3		
17	ALL	154	2	39	57	35	13	6	2	_	_	8	61	85		
	W	64	1	15	25	12	7	3	1		_	4	24	36		
	NW	89		24	31	23	6	3	1	ļ	-	4	36	49		
	UNK	1	-		1	-	-	-	_	_	-	_	1	-		
18	ALL	95	3	28	30	16	9	6	2	1	-	9	60	26		
	W	35		8	12	9	2	3	1	-	-	4	21	10		
	NW	59	3	20	17	7	7	3	1	1	-	5	39	15		
	UNK	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
19	ALL	141	4	44	60	11	9	10	2	_	1	16	81	44		
	W	56	1	12	27	5	4	6	1		_	12		14		
	NW	84	3	32	33	6	5	3	1	-	1	4	51	29		
	UNK	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1		
						i						_				
20	ALL	96	3	26	32	16	12	4	1	1	1	9		31		
	W NW	42 50	-	12	9	13	5	3	-	-	-	8	<u>[</u>	16		
	UNK	50 4	3	13 1	21 2	3	6 1	I	1	1	1	1	34	15		
	UNK	4 	-	'		_	'	_	-	- 	-] 	4			
21 AND OVER	ALL	339	9	104	113	52	27	21	8	1	4	34	187	118		
	W	134	4	38	43	23	14	7	5	-	-	20	70	44		
	NW	196	5	64	67	29	12	14			3	14	114	68		
	UNK	9	-	2	3	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	3	6		
UNKNOWN	ALL	312	1	59	109	70	33	24	12	_	4	49	197	66		
	W	163		34	56	31	19		7		2	33		24		
	NW	139		23	50	37	13	9	5		1	14		40		
	UNK	10		2	3	2	1	1	_	-	1	2				
*W=White												<u> </u>				

*W=White NW=Non-white UNK=Unknown